Tune In to the Midnight Heart

OH, C'MON.

ISN'T THAT WHAT YOU TOLD US TO DO?

YOU TOLD US TO LOCK THE DOOR...

...IF IT'S SOMETHING EMBAR-RASSING.

ZIIIP

すぅ
SHWP
ふぅ

CAN YOU...
...GIMME SOME ADVICE?

THAT'S WHERE YOU KEEP YOUR TABLET?
Not really.
Isn't it uncomfort-able?

SO, WHAT ABOUT THAT TABLET?
I'M TOO EMBAR-RASSED TO TALK ABOUT THIS...
WITH OTHER PEOPLE, BUT I THINK I CAN DO IT WITH YOU.

THIS IS THE SAME AS YESTERDAY.

NEEDS MORE VARIETY.

THIS IS GETTING STALE.

I FEEL LIKE I'VE SEEN THIS BEFORE.

I'M GETTING BORED.

HEL-LIKO!

YOU'VE BEEN STRUGGLING TO GET MORE VIEWS...

I SEE...

PEOPLE MIGHT ACTUALLY BE GETTING SICK OF ME...

I'VE NEVER SEEN THOSE COMMENTS UNTIL NOW.

TH-THAT'S ONLY DURING BREAK TIME!

I CREATE ACTUAL CONTENT, TOO, YOU KNOW!

OF COURSE THEY'D GET BORED IF ALL YOU DO IS SAY HI TO THEM.

I MEAN...

I DO SONGS...

LET'S PLAYS, SMALL TALK, COOKING...

...AND EVEN LIVE DRAWING SOMETIMES, TOO.

I ACTUALLY DREW THE AVATAR FOR IKON MYSELF.

I THINK I MIGHT KNOW...

WHY YOU'RE NOT GETTING MORE VIEWS NOW.

I HAVE NO DOUBT ABOUT MY ANSWER.

I WATCHED PRETTY MUCH ALL YOUR STREAMS, AFTER ALL.

HUH?

YOU'RE SUCH A DIRTY PERVERT.

WHY WOULD YOU THINK THAT?

ALL OF YOUR STREAMS ARE PUBLIC, YOU KNOW!

BLUSH

SO, YOU SAW EVERY-THING I HAD TO OFFER?

YES! I EVEN SCOURED YOUR ARCHIVE! ALL TO GIVE YOU A THOROUGH SCRUTINY!

...BUT TAKE A LOOK.

IT'S GOOD THAT YOU'RE DOING A VARIETY OF CONTENT...

HEL-LIKO!

I'LL BE SINGING TODAY! HOPE YOU ENJOY IT!

OH NOOO! A ZOMBIE!

I JUST CAN'T HANDLE HORROR STUFF!

IT'S MY BIRTH-DAY TODAY!

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR ALL THOSE COMMENTS!

THEY MADE ME REALLY HAPPY!

I'LL SING TODAY!

I'M SUPER NERVOUS RIGHT NOW. YOU CAN TELL, CAN'T YOU?

I DID REALLY WELL ON MY TEST TODAY...

...SO I'M IN A GOOD MOOD!

YOUR FACE LOOKS THE SAME FOR ALL OF THEM!!!

NOT TOO LOUD!

YOUR AVATAR IS WAY TOO LIFELESS!

CAN YOU ALL SEE HOW EXCITED I AM?

LIKE HELL I CAN!

YOUR AVATAR IS JUST A BARELY ANIMATED IMAGE!

YOU CAN DO A LOT MORE WITH 2D DRAWINGS THESE DAYS!

BY MODIFYING OR SWITCHING INDIVIDUAL PARTS, THEY CAN BE JUST AS EXPRESSIVE AS 3D MODELS!

There are programs that can animate flat images, too.

KIRINO...

I KNOW THAT, BUT I SUCK AT COMPUTER STUFF.

COMMISSION-ING SOMEONE TO DO IT ISN'T CHEAP, EITHER.

WHO DO YOU THINK THE MAN IN FRONT OF YOU IS?

A GOFER BOY.

I FORGOT THAT WAS MY JOB TITLE.

WOW...

JUST LEAVE EVERYTHING TO ME.

I DO HAVE A PRETTY GOOD HANDLE ON COMPUTER PROGRAMS.

I'M GONNA SAVE SO MUCH MONEY!

キラ GLITTER

SHOULD YOU REALLY SAY THAT PART OUT LOUD?

YOU HAVE YOUR OWN JOB TO DO, TOO, OKAY?

YOU NEED TO SEPARATE YOUR AVATAR INTO LAYERS AND REDRAW IT.

We're going to be busy.

キラ GLITTER

Neither is yours!

Your idea is not good!!!

A FEW DAYS PASSED ...

I SHALL NOW UNVEIL IKON SUMERAGI VER. 2!

BWAH

THE WAIT IS FINALLY OVER, KIRINO!

I DON'T SEE ANYTHING DIFFERENT HERE.

HAVE A GOOD LOOK!

BAAAM

WHY DON'T YOU TRY AND LAUGH?

OKAY.

...AND DISPLAY A RICH VARIETY OF EMOTIONS!

IT CAN NOW TRACK YOUR FACIAL EXPRES-SIONS...

YOUR AVATAR STILL HAS THE SAME LOOK, YES...

...BUT IT ACTUALLY GOT A MAJOR OVERHAUL UNDER THE HOOD!

How very delight-ful!

How very delightful!

Ha ha ha ha ha!

Ha ha ha ha ha!

I AM TRYING.

What?

CAN YOU TRY TO PUT MORE HEART INTO IT?

SCRATCH

SCRATCH

LISTEN HERE. YOUR VIEWERS WANT TO CONNECT WITH YOU ON AN EMOTIONAL LEVEL.

SURE, YOU CAN USE A HOTKEY TO MAKE YOUR AVATAR SMILE, BUT THAT'S NOT ENOUGH.

THEY WANT TO SEE YOU SMILE OR GET ANGRY FOR REAL.

YOUR AVATAR SHOULD BE ABLE TO EXPRESS ALL OF THAT.

I'M ALWAYS SMILING DURING A BROADCAST.

THAT'S MORE OF A FAKE CUSTOMER SERVICE SMILE.

YOU NEED TO SHOW MORE EMOTION.

FIDGET FIDGET もじ もじ

I CAN'T...

I JUST CAN'T SHOW ANY EMOTIONS AT ALL...

PLOMP

OH YEAH?

EEEEK,

TICKLE

TICKLE

TICKLE

TICKLE

TICKLE

TICKLE

TICKLE

TOY HANDS

CAN YOU SAY THAT AGAIN AFTER THIS?!

GRR

UGHHH!

TICKLE

TICKLE

NO ONE WANTS A STREAMER WITH A POKER FACE!

PANT

PANT

PANT

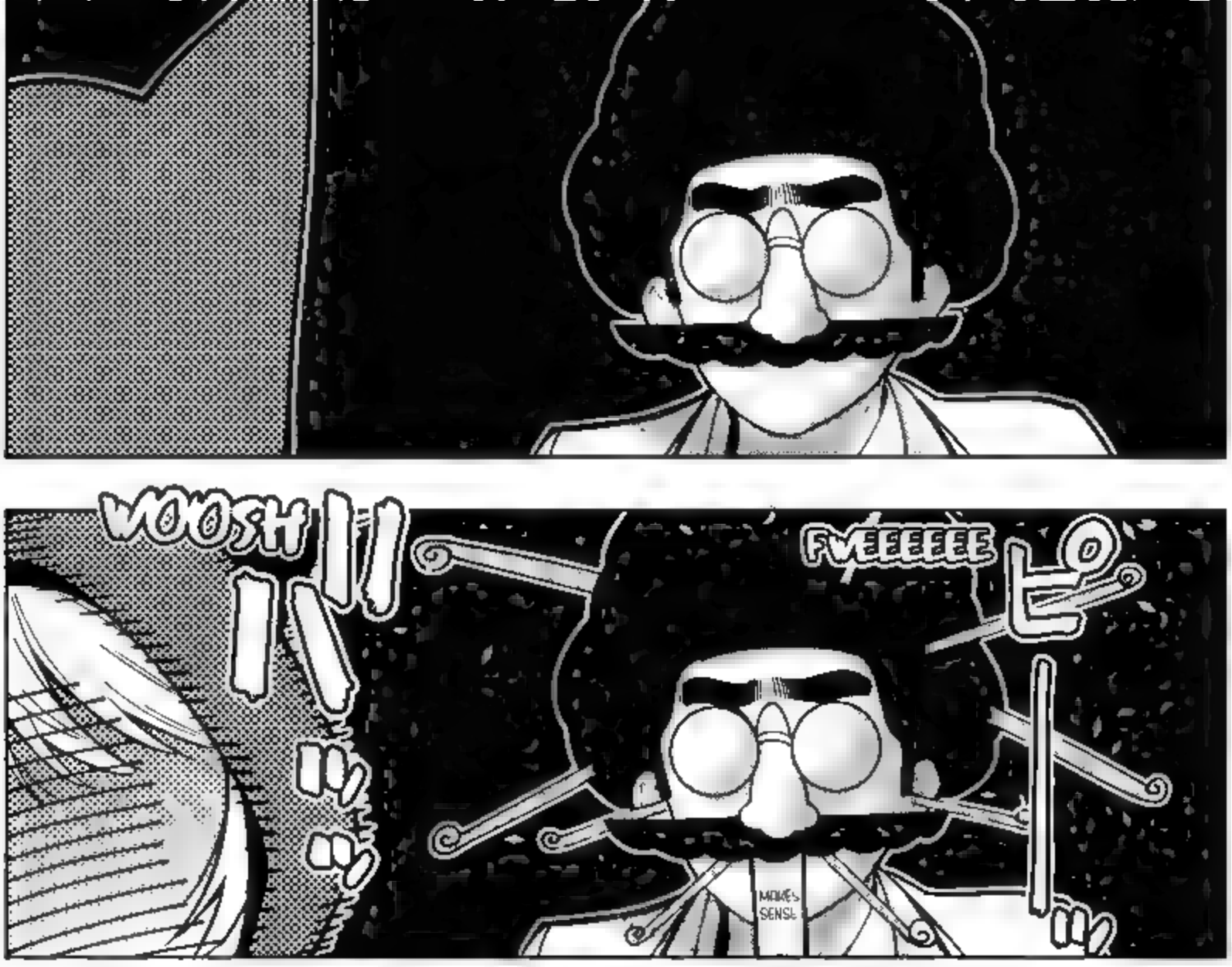
THEY WANT TO SEE AN EXPLOSION OF EMOTIONS! COME ON, LAY BARE YOUR EMOTIONS!

TICKLE

TICKLE

I HATE BEING TICKLED!

WOOSH


WOOSH
FWEEEEEEE
MOVE'S SENSE

SCREEECH
NO!
YOU'RE A STUBBORN ONE, AREN'T YOU? LOOK AT ME!

SHAKE
SHAKE
SHAKE
SHAKE
YOU LAUGHED JUST NOW, DIDN'T YOU?!
I'M NOT... LAUGHING!

TUMBLE
JUST GIVE IT UP...
WHOA ?!!
CRASH

PANT
PANT
YOU LOOK VERY CUTE WHEN YOU SMILE, AFTER ALL.
PANT
PANT
PANT
HA HA HA! THAT'S IT!
PANT
THIS IS WHAT YOUR FANS WOULD WANT TO SEE!

HEY, YOU!

IF YOU CAN DO THIS DURING A STREAM...

WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO IKO?

OPEN THE DOOR ALREADY!

BANG

BANG

EXPLAIN-ING THIS IS GOING TO BE A PAIN...

WHOA, DID IKO-CHAN GET POUNCED ON?!

SORRY, I GUESS? THE DOOR WAS LOCKED, AND NOBODY ANSWERED WHEN WE KNOCKED...

SO WE DECIDED TO TAKE A PEEK SINCE SOMEONE MIGHT HAVE PASSED OUT.

KA-CHAK

IT'S... NOTHING SERIOUS.

YOUR CLOTHES ARE ALL MESSY!

ARE YOU OKAY, IKO?!

HUH?! WHAT THE HELL?!!

DID YOU SERIOUSLY DO THAT?!!

ALL HE DID WAS TOUCHING ME ALL OVER MY BODY...

FIDGET

FIDGET

...AND THEN PUSHING ME ONTO THE FLOOR.

I'm taking you to the Police.

The Police?!

STOP MUSING ABOUT YOUR NEW-FOUND IN-SIGHT!

JAPANESE TRULY IS A DEEP, FASCINATING LANGUAGE...

I SEE. I GUESS IT DOES SOUND LIKE I DID SOMETHING UNSAVORY WHEN YOU PUT IT INTO WORDS.

GAVE UP ON EXPLAINING THE SITUATION.

...

BUCKY.

EEEP!

EXCELLENT! I HAVE HIGH HOPES FOR YOU!

WHY ARE YOU ACTING ALL COOL AND DIGNIFIED NOW?!

I'M GONNA TRY... AND GIVE MY VIEWERS A GENUINE SMILE ON MY NEXT STREAM.

THANKS FOR EVERYTHING.

THE NEXT DAY.

IKON SUMERAGI-CHAN'S STREAM.

WHAT ARE YOU WATCHING?

HUH...?

OH? LET ME SEE.

HER AVATAR GOT UPDATED. IT'S MORE EXPRESSIVE NOW, SUPPOSEDLY.

ver2.0 REVEAL

IKON SUMERAGI

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CHAPTER 7: I CAN'T SMILE IN FRONT OF THE CAMERA!